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Forest  
Service



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# Longstreet Minerals Exploration Project Scoping Document

Austin-Tonopah Ranger District  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Nye County, Nevada

Responsible Official: Lance Brown, District Ranger  
For Information Contact: Doug Powell Zone Geologist  
Phone: 775-289-5125 Email: [john.d.powell@usda.gov](mailto:john.d.powell@usda.gov)



# **Longstreet Minerals Exploration Project Scoping Document**

The Austin-Tonopah Ranger District is initiating scoping and welcomes your comments on the proposed Longstreet Minerals Exploration Project (Plan of Operations #03-18-01) on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The operator, Star Gold Corporation (SGC) has a statutory right to explore for locatable mineral resources on federally administered lands is recognized in the General Mining Law of 1872, and is consistent with the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 (IV-50). Locatable Minerals regulations (36 CFR 228-Subpart A) require that all mineral exploration, development, and operations activities be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts on National Forest surface resources. The Forest Service (FS) is preparing to analyze this project under a categorical exclusion. The responsible official for the Longstreet Minerals Exploration Project decision is Lance Brown, Austin-Tonopah District Ranger.

## **Location:**

The proposed Longstreet Minerals Exploration Project (Project) is located on NFS lands approximately 35 miles northeast of the city of Tonopah, NV in the Monitor Range in central Nevada, T.6N., R.47E., MDB&M, Nye County, Nevada. The Project Boundary encompasses 371 acres, with approximately 291 acres within the Georges Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area (see Figure 2). National Forest Road 405 is excluded from the Roadless Area. No new road construction or reconstruction activities are proposed in the Project Area. The Project would utilize existing roads or cross-country travel for access to all of the drill sites. Although it is not anticipated, there may be up to 35 pinyon-juniper trees cut. Pinyon-juniper trees are commonly cut on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to improve greater sage-grouse habitat.

## **Proposed Action Summary:**

SGC proposes to conduct locatable minerals exploration drilling and collect groundwater and geotechnical data within the Longstreet Project Area (See Figures 1 & 2). SGC proposes 12 exploration drilling sites, four geotechnical drill sites, four groundwater monitoring wells, and one groundwater production well in the Project Area. The proposed water production well and four groundwater monitoring wells would be used to determine water quantity and quality as part of hydrogeologic studies required by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) for potential future mine plan analysis.

Most of the proposed drill sites, including well installations, would be entirely located within the footprint of existing surface disturbances at the Project Area and would require minimal to no additional surface disturbance. Potential surface disturbance may occur where the sites extend beyond the existing disturbance and would consist of less than one acre (approximately 0.84 acres) of temporary disturbance.

Approximately eight miles of existing roads would be utilized within the Project Area. Minor road maintenance is anticipated during the project. In order to minimize impacts to sage grouse, migratory birds, and bats, drilling would not occur between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Surface disturbance would be recontoured to approximate the original contours and would then be seeded with a USFS-approved certified weed free seed mix. Final reclamation of surface



disturbances would be completed within one year from the start of operations. All drill holes would be plugged in accordance with the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 534.

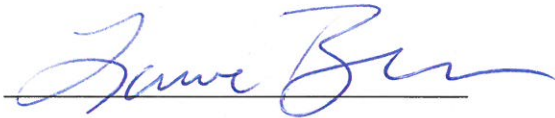
### Opportunity to Comment:

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions for this project should be sent to Lance Brown, Austin-Tonopah District Ranger at P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310; phone 775-964-2671 fax (775) 482-3053; or you may hand-deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays to 1400 S. Erie Main Street Tonopah, NV 89049. Electronic comments should be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to this email address: [comments-intermt-n-humboldt-toiyabe-austin-tonopah@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermt-n-humboldt-toiyabe-austin-tonopah@fs.fed.us).

Please use the term "Longstreet Exploration Project" in the subject line of your email. To be most effective, the Forest Service should receive comments no later than **April 4, 2019**. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This includes names, addresses and any other information provided with your comments. Comments, names, and contact information of those who comment will be part of the public record for this project. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, the District will not be able to send further project information to anonymous commenters.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the environmental analysis process or this Project, please contact Doug Powell Zone Geologist at (775) 289-5125 (email address: [johnd.d.powell@usda.gov](mailto:johnd.d.powell@usda.gov)).



Lance Brown  
Austin-Tonopah District Ranger



Date

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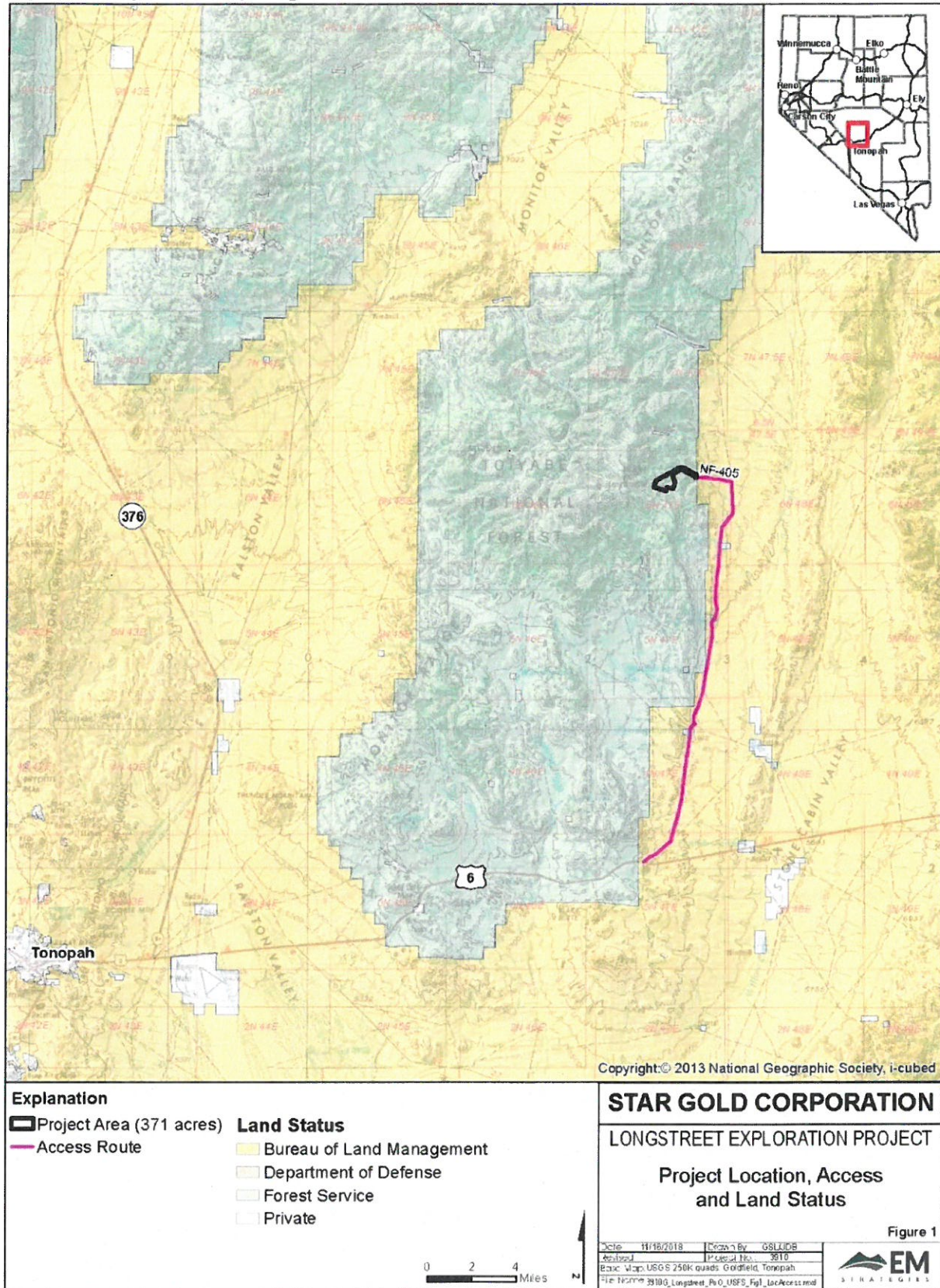
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**Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map.**





**Figure 2. Project Area Map.**

